

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 3, 4, 11, and 17 are hereby cancelled.

Claims 1-2, 5-10, 12-16, and 18-22 are pending.

Claims 1-2, 5-10, 12-16, and 18-22 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-34 of copending Application No. 09-387,795.

Claims 1-2, 5-10, 12-16, and 18-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,933,143 (Kobayashi) and U.S. Patent No. 6,112,015 (Planas).

In the Specification

The Abstract of the present application has been corrected as requested by the Examiner.

In the Claims

The claims have been amended to correct informalities, such as the lack of antecedent basis of some claim terms. The claims have also been amended to more clearly define the present invention. In this regard, the claims have specifically been amended to comport their language with that of the written description so as to facilitate an easier reading of the claims.

OVERVIEW OF THE INVENTION

The presently claimed invention provides a method of visually indicating that a relationship exists between diverse, but related graphical objects in a graphical user interface. An icon that has a specified color scheme is associated with the diverse, but related graphical objects. For example, the icon is associated with a toolbar button that launches a wizard used to create an item, with the wizard, and with folders that contain items created by the wizard.

Whenever one of these related graphical objects is displayed, the icon is displayed within the displayed graphical object. Providing an icon with a specified color scheme that is persistently displayed within related graphical objects ties together related interface controls and displays (windows, dialogs, buttons) and associated objects so that users are able to recognize that these items are related.

PROVISIONAL REJECTION UNDER OBVIOUSNESS-TYPE DOUBLE PATENTING

Applicant thanks the Examiner for particularly pointing out that this is a provisional rejection. Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider this provisional rejection when allowable claims have been determined.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The rejection of claims 1-2, 5-10, 12-16, and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is believed to be improper because the combination of Kobayashi and Planas would not result in the presently claimed invention, even if there was a motivation to combine them. The combination would not result in the presently claimed invention because Kobayashi does not teach displaying related graphical objects with the same icon displayed within each object, as the Examiner asserts.

Kobayashi, instead, teaches a system and method that produces and displays a list of the names of related graphical objects, with an icon displayed next to each name to indicate that object's function. This is illustrated in figure 14 of Kobayashi, which shows an exemplary display created according to Kobayashi's invention. As shown, a tree list containing the names of related graphical objects is created, and icons are displayed next to each name. Kobayashi, Col 8, line 66-Col 9, line 2. For instance, an icon of a horizontal scrollbar is displayed next to the name "HScroll1." Further, as can be seen, Kobayashi does not use the same icon for all of

the related objects because the icons are used to signify the function of the object. Kobayashi, Col 8, lines 63-66. For example, the icon next to “HScroll1” is different from the icon next to “Push1.”

In contrast, the presently claimed invention associates a single icon having a specified color scheme with all of the diverse, but related graphical objects. The icon, with the specified color scheme, is then displayed within each related graphical object that is displayed.

This contrast between Kobayashi and the present invention is best seen by comparing figure 14 of Kobayashi with figure 1 in the present application. First, unlike Kobayashi, the present invention does not display a list of the graphical objects’ names. Rather, the graphical objects themselves are displayed. As shown in figure 1, related graphical objects 110, 111, 112, and 113 are displayed. Second, Kobayashi displays different icons next to the object’s name in the list, while the presently claimed invention displays the same icon, with the specified color scheme, within the object itself. For instance, objects 110, 111, 112, and 113 have the same icon displayed within them.

By displaying an icon with a specified color scheme in each related item, the present invention makes it easier to relate an object represented on the user interface with its associated controls and displays. Kobayashi can not provide this advantage because Kobayashi does not even display the icons on the objects themselves, much less use the same icon for each related object to provide persistence across the objects.

Furthermore, Planas does not make up for these deficiencies in Kobayashi. Thus, any combination of Kobayashi with Planas will not result in the present invention. Therefore, the presently claimed invention can not be obvious from these references. As such, the applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Summary:

As has been detailed above, none of the references, cited or applied, provide for the specific claimed details of applicants' presently claimed invention, nor renders them obvious. It is believed that this case is in condition for allowance and reconsideration thereof and early issuance is respectfully requested.

As this amendment has been timely filed within the set period of response, no petition for extension of time or associated fee is required. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the fees provided to Deposit Account No. 12-0010.

If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not hesitate to contact applicants' representative at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy W. Lacasse".

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